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Creating Opportunities Preserving Choices

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP PROSPERITY



United States Department of Agriculture • Sustainable Development and Small Farms • Program Aid 1656 • May 1999

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How Does USDA Practice Sustainable Development?



Working with organizations, individuals, and state, local, and tribal governments, we:

- ✓ Emphasize sustainable agriculture and sustainable forestry as a profitable, ecological, and socially sound strategy for small farmers and woodlot owners.
- ✓ Help citizens care for their neighborhood gardens, community trees and forests, and other green spaces.
- ✓ Protect important farm and forest land from being converted to other uses.
- ✓ Start up micro- and small enterprises through grants and loans.
- ✓ Encourage farmers to keep environmentally sensitive farmland covered with grasses and trees.
- ✓ Connect small business owners to the latest technologies and resources.
- ✓ Reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and build local food systems.



Researchers test lupin, as one of 1,400 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) collaborative projects involving farmers, community groups, and USDA and university scientists. Lupin is an alternative crop that holds great potential for human consumption, animal forage, and as a nitrogen-fixing cover crop.

- ✓ Add value to local economies through job and enterprise development.
- ✓ Link rural communities across long distances to vital services like education and medical support.
- ✓ Help farmers get the most value for their products through farmers markets, direct marketing techniques, and organic market expansion.
- ✓ Work with communities to identify their options and plan their futures.
- ✓ Create regional partnerships to connect urban and rural consumers.
- ✓ Search for new practices, products, and ways to profit.
- ✓ Target information and education to consumers, farmers, ranchers, and woodlot owners through a national network of extension agents.

In these and other ways, we work together to make a *sustainable* difference.

Where Can I Go For More Information?

Visit USDA's web site (www.usda.gov) for more information on specific activities. Check out the latest news from the Director of Sustainable Development and Small Farms and others throughout USDA. Link with our partners to work within your community to help make these things happen!

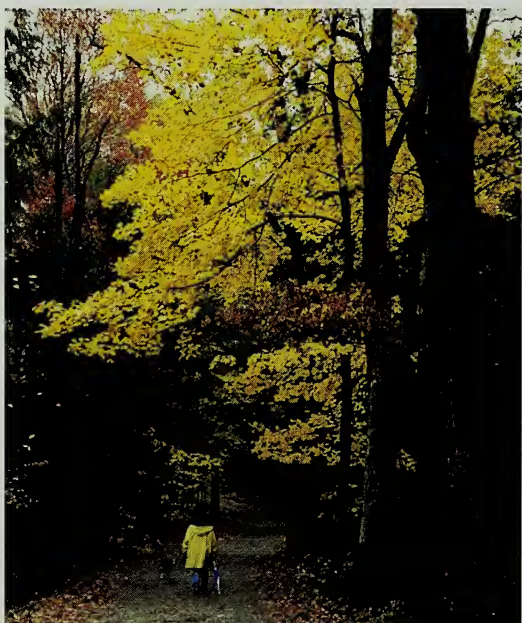
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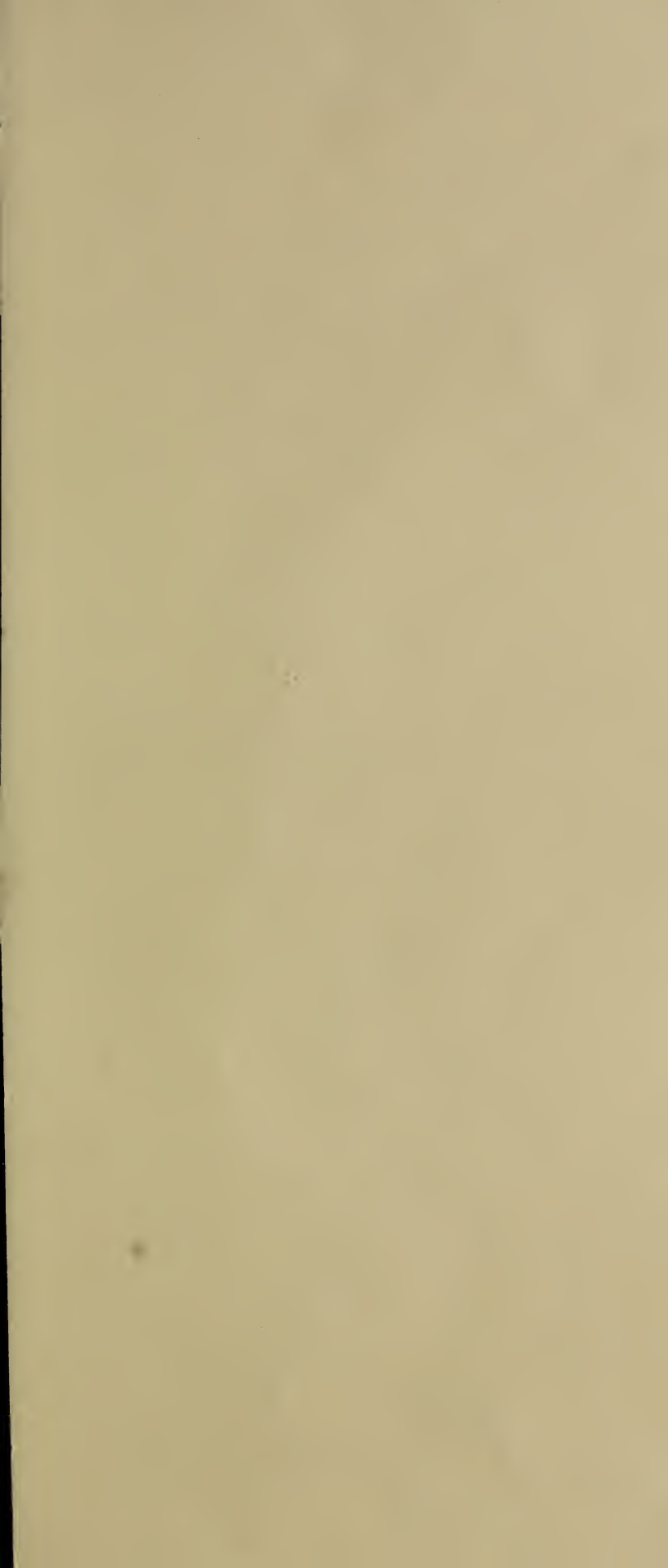
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USDA's Mutual Self Help Housing Program strengthens communities by bringing groups of families together to help each other build their homes. Since 1971, rural residents have built over 25,000 houses.



The Forest Legacy Program keeps important privately owned forests part of a working landscape through Federal-State partnerships with private landowners. During the last 5 years, conservation easements have protected nearly 70,000 forested acres in 17 states, valued at \$35 million.



“Americans are searching for — and finding — ways to prosper and be good stewards of the lands where we live. As a nation we are making new efforts to pursue growth and still ensure opportunities for generations to come.

At USDA, we are committed to linking the economic, environmental, and social components of our mission to create opportunities for landowners and communities and preserve choices for our children and grandchildren. Every day, we are making this part of how we raise our food, care for our forests, and support our small towns.”

— Secretary Dan Glickman, May 1999

“Sustainable development is about doing things in ways that work for the long run because they are better from every point of view — better economically, environmentally, and socially.”

— The President's Council on Sustainable Development, 1997

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